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The Not-Air Force Plane

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Clay Spencer

Logan, Utah

November 30, 2018

Title: The Not-Air Force Plane

Genre: Material Culture

Informant: Clay is an Aero-Space Engineer student at Utah State University. He served a mission in the Dominican Republic where we initially met. He is a very sarcastic person but is willing to help his friends in need. He is from Lehi, Utah and has been going to school for about 3 years. Clay doesn't know much about airplanes but can outrun just about anyone.

Context: Clay is in his kitchen, lounging out with me and our friend Kelsea. Clay is in the Army and NOT in the Air Force which will come into play later. Clay is in his sweats, ready to go to bed but is watching a lot of TV before this movie site gets rid of his favorite TV series. He also stated that he talks too much about being in the Army, but I clearly don't pay that much attention.

Text: Clay used a piece of 11 x 8.5 piece of graph paper with holes and plastic reinforcements on one side.



Texture: Clay was sitting at his kitchen table, having just binge watched the TV series "Friends". Clay seems very focused on his airplane making skills and stated, "I don't even know if I'm making this right."

He said, "I start by folding the top like this" and he folded the paper in half and met the corners. "Then I fold the whole thing back over itself again." And he folded it in half, licking his lips in concentration. I said he didn't remember who taught him how to make a paper airplane, he just learned it one day. I asked if he knew how to make different kinds of airplanes and he asked, "Is there like an art to make paper airplanes?" I told him that not everyone makes the same kind of paper airplane and he was surprised at this comment. He then talked about how one time he made a paper airplane and when he threw it the plane came back and hit him in the face. He was at a family reunion (with a big family) so everyone saw him. I made a comment to see if the airplane would be "Air Force grade" and he laughed at me. When I asked what the problem was, he said that he wasn't in the Air Force, but that he was in the Army. Then I felt really embarrassed. He laughed for a good five minutes, and when he finally put himself together, he threw the airplane and it went at least 4 feet across the living room and said "and that's why I'm not in the Air Force."

Courtney Smith

USU

ENGL 2210

Dr. Lynne S. McNell

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